

Message Text

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FM USDEL ALEXANDRIA

TO USMINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - KISSINGER TRIP

1. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WERE NOT ABLE TO SEE EITHER SECRETARY OR PRESIDENT SADAT BEFORE SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE FOR ISRAEL WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON AND ATTEMPTS TO ARRANGE MEETING FOR FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI WITH MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SAME EVENING DID NOT WORK OUT. CONSEQUENTLY, CAIRO PRESS COVERAGE ON AUGUST 28 MAINLY FOCUSES ON A) STATEMENTS BY OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN BASHIR, AND B) REPORTS FROM ISRAEL. EDITORIALS CONTINUE TO DEFEND ACCORD STRONGLY.

2. AL-AHRAM REPORTS BASHIR'S STATEMENT THAT NOTE WHICH SECRETARY CARRIED WITH HIM TO ISRAEL ON WEDNESDAY "CLEARLY DEFINES GOE POSITION ON POINTS STILL TO BE AGREED TO" AND THAT "IF OTHER PARTY AGREES TO THESE POINTS, ACCORD CAN BE REUCHED." ANSWERING PRESS INQUIRY, BASHIR SAID THAT "PRINCIPLE MATTERS HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN COVERED," THAT WHAT REMAINS IS "SOME POINTS DEALING WITH SUBSTANCE AHJ OTHERS DEALING WITH PROCEEDURES,"

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AND THAT "BOTH KINDS OF POINTS ARE IMPORTANT." BASHIR REFLECTED

POSSIBILITY THAT ACCORD WOULD BE SIGNED "WITHIN THREE DAYS IF ISRAEL SENDS POSITIVE REPLY TO GOE NOTE THAT SECRETARY CARRIED WITH HIM." SIGNING ACCORD IN EGYPT OR ISRAEL FIRST IS "PROCEDURAL MATTER," BASHIR EXPLAINED. "IT IS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER," HE ADDED, THAT "ACCORD WILL BE SIGNED SAME MOMENT IN BOTH EGYPT AND ISRAEL IF REMAINING ISSUES ARE SETTLED."

3. AL-AKHBAR QUOTES BASHIR'S STATEMENT THAT ISRAEL AGREED TO POINTS WHICH SECRETARY TOOK WITH HIM, "WE WILL BE MOVING ON PATH OF PEACE." BASHIR ALSO SAID THAT "WE ARE STILL MAKING PROGRESS, BUT REMAINING ISSUES ARE STILL IMPORTANT." HE EXPLAINED THAT "SIGNING WILL AT ONCE FOLLOW ISRAEL'S APPROVAL OF REMAINING POINTS." BASHIR DENIED THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL DRAFTS OF SOME PARTS OF ACCORD AND EMPHASIZED THAT "THERE IS SINGLE DRAFT FOR ALL PARTIES." HE NOTED THAT "ALL POINTS IN TALKS WILL BE STATED IN ACCORD" (I.E., NOTHING WILL BE SECRET.)

4. AL-GOMHURIYA QUOTES BASHIR'S STATEMENT THAT GOE'S POSITION IS NOW "DEFINITE" AND THAT GOE HAS COVERED IN ITS "FINAL REPLY ALL ASPECTS OF SITUATION." BASHIR NOTED THAT "NEXT DEVELOPMENT WILL DEPEND ON ISRAEL'S RESPONSE TO POINTS AS DEFINED BY GOE," THAT "IF ISRAEL'S RESPONSE IS POSITIVE, WE WILL MOVE QUICKLY TO INITIALING ACCORD" AND THAT "MILITARY PERSONNEL WILL INITIAL ACCORD IN BOTH ALEXANDRIA AND ISRAEL."

5. ALL PAPERS FRONTPAGE GOE CABINET SUPPORT TO PRESIDENT SADAT FOLLOWING PRESENTATION OF REPORT BY PRIME MINISTER SALEM ON CURRENT ME TALKS.

6. IN THEIR GENERAL COVERAGE OF SECRETARY'S SHUTTLE, PAPERS CALL SECRETARY'S QRPKS WITH PRESIDENT SADAT "CONSTRUCTIVE." AL-AHRAH PREDICTS THAT SECRETARY WILL SHUTTLE TO ISRAEL "FOR FOURTH TIME ON SATURDAY." SEPARATE FRONTPAGE ITEM QUOTES WIRE SERVICE DISPATCH THAT BEFORE RETURN TO WASHINGTON, SECRETARY WILL PAY SECOND VISIT TO SYRIA TO DISCUSS SECOND DISENGAGEMENT IN GOLAN. ANOTHER ITEM QUOTES STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS STATEMENT THAT "U.S. WILL NOT OFFER ANY MILITARY COMMITMENTS AS PART OF INTERIM AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL." AL-AKHBAR NOTES THAT "TALKS HAVE

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REACHED CRITICAL PHASE IN WHICH SUCCESS OF SECRETARY'S MISSION DEPENDS ON POSITION TO BE ANNOUNCED BY ISRAEL TODAY AND EXTENT OF ITS RESPONSE TO GOE'S POSITIVE STAND." AL-AKHBAR QUOTES STATEMENT BY EGYPTIAN REPRESENTATIVE AT LIMA CONFERENCE, MOHAMED RIYAD, TO EFFECT THAT "HOWEVER ITS EXTENT, ANY PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS REPRESENTS ACTUAL PROGRESS TOWARD FINAL TARGET: FULL WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED LANDS, AND OVERALL PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT." AL-GOMHURIYA REPORTS "REGULAR" FORD-KISSINGER

CONTACHENON CURRENT ME EFFORTS, AL-AKHBAR AND AL-GOMHURIYA FRONTPAGE NEWS THAT SECRETARY WILL BRIEF SOVIET OFFICIALS IN MOSCOW ON HIS EFFORTS FOR ME PEACE.

7. ON ISRAELI SCENE, AL-AHRAM REPORTS VIEW BY "U. . OFFICIALS" BEEN LIMITED TO TWO OR THREE PARAGRAPHS IN NEW ACCORD DRAFT" AND THAT "IT IS UNCERTAIN THAT ACCORD WILL BE INITIALED SUNDAY OR MONDAY." SECRETARY, AL-AHRAM ADDS, TOLD ACCOMPANYING MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES THAT "WE ARE CLOSER THAN EVER TO ACCORD," BUT "THERE ARE STILL SOME PHRASING DIFFICULTIES WHICH WE MUST OVERCOME." SECRETARY CALLED THESE DIFFICULTIES "NOT REPRESENTING ACTUAL BARRIERS." AL-AHRAM ALSO QUOTES ISRAELI RADIO BROADCAST TO EFFECT THAT DISCUSSION DURING SECRETARY'S FOURTH SHUTTLE WILL COVER "PHRASING MILITARY PROTOCOLS APPENDED TO ACCORD, DEFINING U. . PRESENCE IN PASSES AND ISRAELI-U. .K AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC AND OTHER TYPES OF AID." ACCORDING TO AL-AKHBAR, ISRAELI CIRCLES ANNOUNCED THAT NEW ACCORD "IS ALMOST READY." AL-AKHBAR REPORTS THAT SECRETARY'S TALKS IN ISRAEL COVER "BASIS OF MILITARY ACTION COMMITTEES WHICH WILL WORK ON DETAILS OF ACCORD IMPLEMENTATION." THESE COMMITTEES, PAPER EXPLAINS, WILL START OPERATION FOLLOWING INITIALING ACCORD. CLAUSES IN ACCORD, AL-AKHBAR REPORTS, WILL COVER HOLDING DIS- ENGAGEMENT TALKS ON GOLAN "AT EGYPT'S REQUEST" AS GOI WILL EXPRESS ITS INTENTION TO "NEGOTIATE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN REGION." AL-AKHBAR ALSO QUOTES "INFORMED DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN TEL AVIV" AS SAYING THAT SECRETARY'S CURRENT TALKS IN ISRAEL SEEK A) DRAFTING MILITARY PROTOCOLS DEALING WITH POSITIONS OF ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN FORCES, B) DEFINING UNEF POSITIONS IN SINAI, C) "PRECISE DEFINITION" OF U.S. TECHNI- CIANS' POSITION IN EARLY WARNING STATIONS, AND D) U. .-ISRAELI MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID AGREEMENTS. SAME SOURCES EXPLAINED THAT MILITARY PROTOCOL AND WITHDRAWAL TIMETABLE WILL BE APPENDED TO ACCORD. AL-GOMHURIYA LEARNS FROM FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT HE DISCUSSED WITH SECRETARY "DETAILS OF LEGAL POSITION AND MOVEMENT OF U.S. TECHNICIANS WHO WILL BE PRESENT IN ELECTRONIC MONITORING POSTS IN SINAI, SINCE THEY WILL BE ON EGYPTIAN SOVEREIGN TERRITORY." AL-GOMHURIYA ALSO REPORTS ON "BOSTON GLOBE" STORY THAT TWO MORE AGREEMENTS WILL BE ADDED TO DIS- ENGAGEMENT ACCORD; ONE COVERS U.S. PLEDGES TO SUPPLY ISRAEL WITH OIL "IN CASE OF NEW OIL MENACE," WHILE ANOTHER COVERS "EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI PLEDGES TO U. . IN CONNECTION WITH INTENTIONS TO IMPLE- MENT AGREEMENT." AL-GOMHURIYA ALSO QUOTES UPI DISPATCH BASED ON ISRAELI AND AMERICAN SOURCES THAT "DETAILED ACCORD WILL BE SIGNED IN GENEVA BY MID-SEPTEMBER, WHILE FINAL RATIFICATION WILL BE IN OCTOBER." AL-GOMHURIYA PUBLISHES REPORTS BY "ALL ISRAELI PAPERS" THAT WITHDRAWAL FROM OIL FIELDS AND RETURNING THEM TO EGYPT WILL OCCUR THREE TO FOUR MONTHS FOLLOWING ACCORD SIGNING.

8. EDITORIALY, AL-AHRAM DESCRIBES AS "CORNERSTONES" OF ACCORD, INTENTION TO CONCLUDE SIMILAR ACCORD ON GOLAN, CONTINUATION OF EGYPTIAN RZBOYCOTT" OF ISRAEL, GOE'S CONTINUING ADHERENCE TO ARAB LEAUGUE JOINT DEFENCE AGREEMENT AND GOE'S INTENTION TO MAKE ACCORD PUBLIC. AL-AKHBAR SAYS THAT NEW ACCORD "SERVES ARAB NATIONAL GOALS." AL-GOMHURIYA'S BOARD CHAIRMAN, ABDEL MONEIM EL-SAWI, THINKS THAT ISRAEL'S CONDUCT IS MOTIVATED BY ZIONIST AGENCIES ABROAD. NEWS FEATURE BY AL-GOMHURIYA'S DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT, HODA TAWFIK, SAYS THAT, BY SIGNING NEW ACCORD, ME WILL STEP INTO "PHASE OF FULL PEACE" AND "BY BEING INVOLVED AS THIRD PARTY AND EYE-WITNESS, U. . PLAYS BIGGER ROLE IN CONCLUDING SECOND ACCORD (THAN THAT PLAYED IN FIRST)." TO TAWFIK, PRESENCE OF "LIMITED U. . OBSERVERS IN EARLY WARNING STATIONS AND MONITORING CENTERS GUARANTEES ACCORD IMPLEMENTATION "WHILE WE ARE PUSHING PROBLEMS TOWARD OVERALL SETTLEMENT IN GENEVA CONFERENCE." AL-GOMHURIYA' EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, MOHSEN MOHAMED, CONSIDERS NEW ACCORD "VICTORY FOR EGYPT" BECAUSE IT PROVES GOE ABILITY TO WIN OVER U.S. TO ITS SIDE.EILTS

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